



The Diocese of Bethlehem COVID-19 Protocols for Gathering

The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem recommends the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) “[Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#)” and “[Guidance for Unvaccinated People](#)” web pages for detailed advice about our continuing effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

General Guidelines

Indoor Gathering

To consider indoor gathering and worship, each parish should determine the following:

- Your county’s 7-day Average New Cases per 100,000 to be less than 25 for 2 consecutive weeks
- The Vestry’s consensus to open for indoor gathering/worship
- The agreement of the Rector/Priest-in-charge to open for indoor gathering/worship

Parish leadership should prayerfully consider these three elements and notify the Bishop in writing (email or letter) of any decision to gather indoors.

Fully Vaccinated People

The CDC considers people [fully vaccinated](#):

- Two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, such as Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- Two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine

People who do not meet these requirements are not fully vaccinated and should follow “[Guidance for Unvaccinated People](#).”

Masking

Fully vaccinated people are not required to wear a mask while gathering. In gatherings that include both fully vaccinated and not yet fully vaccinated people, masks that fully cover the nose and mouth are recommended for all people.

Physical Distancing

Fully vaccinated people are not required to physically distance while gathering. In gatherings that include both fully vaccinated and not yet fully vaccinated people, all people are recommended to stay six feet apart from others who do not live with them.

Specific Recommendations

Singing

Congregational or choir singing among fully vaccinated and not yet fully vaccinated people should follow the “Masking” and “Physical Distancing” guidelines above.



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Gathering Capacity

Indoor gathering capacity should be determined by the circumstance and space. For indoor gatherings that include both fully vaccinated and not yet fully vaccinated people, it is recommended that your gathering capacity be determined by applying the “Physical Distancing” guidelines above to your indoor space.

Eucharist

- The Celebrant should sanitize hands liberally and should wear a mask that fully covers their nose and mouth.
- The Sacrament should be received by the communicants in only one kind (the Bread).
- The Celebrant should be the only person who delivers the Bread to the communicants.
- The Cup should be received only by the Celebrant.

COVID-19 Transmission at Parish

If there is a COVID-19 infection as a result of gathering at your parish, please contact the Bishop as quickly as possible via phone or email.